

It is quite a privilege my dear Maria, to be again
 able to sit down quietly to my desk - and yet I did not
 mean to write to you, until I had so far honored your
 last charming letter, as to have called to see your
 young friend Miss Wickcliffe - but we have been inter-
 dicted all intercourse with our friends & neighbours
 on account of Varioloid. Sally Minis took the disease
 more than a month ago and had it very badly. it was
 almost old fashioned small pox. The doctor in the same
 room with Miriam & Beeky & we three nursed her, keeping
 the rest of the family as much out of the way as possible
 but Ned & Sarah took it. they were not very sick, and
 have no marks. I was sick too for a week, but not
 with that disease. however, it completely separated
 us from the Leggins family, and even from our
 own kind folk. but the embargo is removed, Sarah
 went out yesterday, (who was the last to suffer) and
 I hope to be admitted to see Miss W. without alarming
 her careful guardian - then we were disappointed that
 Elizabeth Blair was not permitted to come up yesterday,
 having kept her away two weeks while there was any
 risk of her taking it - Miss Adeline with all her
 sense & accomplishments is nervous to a great degree
 and is afraid of all evils in the shape of disease
 she was ill for fear of cholera, and traveled about
 tormenting herself. when in fact there was little risk
 in staying at home, and much more comfort in being there
 where duty might have required her -

and when intercourse is again established, Miss Wickleffe
shall be invited to be a weekly guest in Boston town and you
may assure her friends, that your wishes shall in all respects
be accomplished as far as lies in my power, it delights me
dearest Sister, to be thought well of by your friends because
I owe their opinions to your love, and if there be any safe
indulgence of vanity it is the consequence we feel, arising
from the love we inspire. I think it may appear out of
character in one of my age to plead excuses for vanity -
women are not expected to want them at any period of
life, and to tell the truth I have relied so long in the
affections of kind friends, that it requires strict self ex-
amination to fix a standard of truth, by which to shape
my humility, and my Sister, your praise I find oftenest
a test, because on all other subjects your opinions
are accepted, and therefore I have to put your partial-
ity in the other scale to get the true balance. I say
your opinions on all other subjects Maria, altho you
so frequently speak of one in which there are shades
of difference between us, but these perhaps are the
fruits of education, had I not been born a Jewess
I should be what you are - a seeker after the faith
which would bring me nearest to ^{the} pure worship of the
Most High God, creator of heaven & earth! and
dearest Sister, in the precious book from which we
both draw our light, we both find warrant to love
as brothers & sisters all the human family, who with
sincerity of heart worship God, and had you been
a daughter of Israel, I am fain to believe - tho' you might
wish to reform many abuses, you would not be willing to
change one fundamental law, "for what does God reap
use of us more than to do justly, love mercy, and

three years I can hardly realize it, have hoped since I have seen
the dear creatures. my heart yearns to embrace you all again
my beloved Brother too, tears will flow but cannot express what
hopes in my heart when I think of him - and all his goodness -
I could almost quarrel with you Maria, for burning your sheet of
"Eccepty!" you must gather the ashes & insure the Phoenix, and yet
I shall lament the transformation. all you have ever had me
appears so to fall in with my taste & feelings that I could not love

Becky. It troubles her face & says she is ashamed
of not having written to you. I tell her it would
M. would only send me a message. I would write to her
but I fear she forgets me - but she says I am writing for
my sister & so writes - I have no room for another
line - RB -
Nov - 24 46

Lexington Ky

Mr. Benjamin Grant



the cogitations of one of your sensible sittings in exchange for
even a brighter hour. some time ago Mrs. T. Biddle enquired if you
ever mentioned her relations in your letters, they have been so long without
information, as to be uncertain whether they escaped the cholera. Can you give
any intelligence about any of the Alexanders for her? Miss Peters is alive
& lively as ever. always your most enthusiastic friend & admirer, and will
be so delighted when I tell her your remembrance. Miss Chapman was married
last week and I expect a full account of the whole party. When I see her
next, Mrs. T. Biddle will or course inform her all about it.